

Message

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Subject: Promoting Market-Based Mechanisms for Improving Water Quality
Attachments: EPA Trading Policy Memo-2019.pdf

Dear Colleagues:

I'd like to share a new policy memorandum issued last week by EPA's Office of Water that aims to help states, tribes, territories and stakeholders use market-based approaches to reduce pollutant discharges and improve water quality. EPA has supported the use of water quality trading, offsets and similar programs to help reduce pollution control costs and achieve compliance with Clean Water Act requirements for many years. This memo is intended to provide additional flexibility to assist the broader use of market-, incentive-, and community-based programs to supplement existing water quality improvement efforts.

EPA's actions are part of a larger multi-agency collaboration with stakeholders across the country to better coordinate and focus federal resources and authorities to address the nation's most challenging water resource concerns, including excess nutrients in waterways. EPA will host a webinar on March 5 to discuss the trading memo and our other ongoing work to reduce excess nutrients in waterways. To participate in the webinar, please send an email to nutrients@epa.gov. For more information, please visit www.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/collaborative-approaches-reducing-excess-nutrients. Dave Smith (415-972-3463, smith.davidw@epa.gov) of my staff will spearhead our Region 9 efforts on this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact Dave or me if we can be of further assistance.

Best regards,

Tomás Torres, Director, Water Division
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